



evergreen [1]

story
YUYUKO TAKEMIYA

art
AKIRA CASKABE

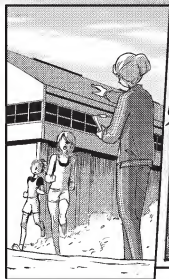


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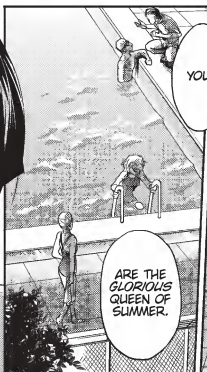
Story: Yuyuko Takemiya
Art: Akira Caskabe

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AKIN
TO THE
SUN
ITSELF.

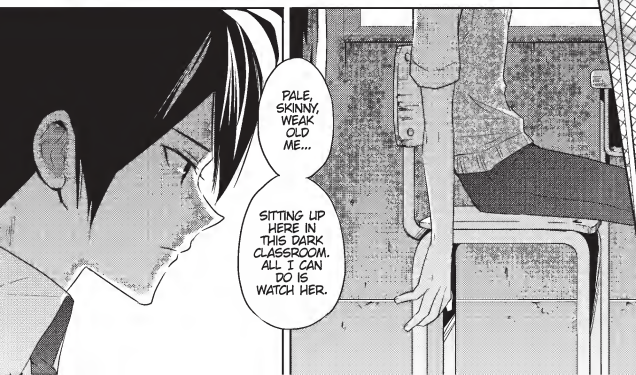


YOU...

ARE THE
GLORIOUS
QUEEN OF
SUMMER.



Chapter 1: The Nightmare







THUS, THEY HAVE
FALLEN PREY
TO THEIR
CAPTAIN'S
SPECIAL
TASTES.

THEIR
ENTIRE TORSO
IS NAKED,
AFTER ALL.
FUNNY HOW
A MERE SIZE
DIFFERENCE
CAN MAKE
BOYS SO
INDIFFERENT
ABOUT
EXPOSING
THEIR
BREASTS.

THOUGH,
IT IS TRUE
THAT BOYS'
SWIMSUITS
ARE MORE
REVEALING.

AND NO!
I WAS
NOT
STARING
AT MAN-
BOOBS!

DON'T
YOU
ROLL
YOUR
EYES
AT
ME!



I-I
WASN'T
STARING
AT THE
GIRLS'
SWIM-
SUITS!

AS "A
WHOLE
LOT LIKE
HARASS-
MENT."

I AM SIMPLY
EXPRESSING
AN OBSERVA-
TION OF HOW
A YOUNG MAN
STARING
EXCESSIVELY
AT YOUNG
WOMEN IN
SWIMSUITS
MAY APPEAR
TO OTHERS...



INTENTLY,
FOR
OVER TEN
MINUTES.
SIGHING
YOUR
HAPPY
LITTLE
SIGHS.

OH?
YOU
WERE
LOOKING
AT THE
BOYS,
THEN?



YOU'RE
QUITE
THE LOST
CAUSE,
CAPTAIN.

NOW
HURRY
UP AND
FINISH
YOUR
COLUMN.

AA
AUGH!

NOW, CAN
WE PLEASE
STOP!
SERIOUSLY!
THEY CAN
HEAR US
DOWN
THERE!



OKAY!

ENOUGH
ALREADY!
I ADMIT
IT!

I ADMIT
THAT I WAS
STARING
AT THE
GIRLS,
JUST LIKE
THIS! ARE
YOU HAPPY,
NOW?!





DAMMIT!!

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A RALINCHY ROMP-FEST OF A DREAM, Y'KNOW!!



EVERYBODY ELSE IS JUST SITTING AROUND READING MANGA. HECK, THERE ARE EVEN PEOPLE IN HERE WHO AREN'T IN THE CLUB.

GNON WAKE UP!



A A A U G H !!

TWITCH



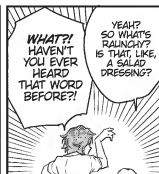
I SEE SOGA-SEMPAI HAS A DIFFERENT GIRLFRIEND FROM LAST WEEK.

AND "RALINCHY" DREAMS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL DAY? TALK ABOUT RAMPANT HORMONES.

WHO'S THAT?

DROP THE DUMB BLONDE ACT WYAT!

WHATEVS~!



WHAT?! HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THAT WORD BEFORE?

YEAH? SO WHAT'S RALINCHY? IS THAT, LIKE, A SALAD DRESSING?



ME...

RALINCHY DREAMS, EH...?



THEN THERE'RE GUYS LIKE HIM.



AHA!
ON-CHAN!
YOU'VE
HAD ROWDY
DREAMS,
RIGHT?!
YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT!

WHIRL

NO, NO,
NO! A
RALINCH
FEST
IS--



I DON'T
EVEN
GET TO
DREAM
ABOUT
AWAYA
NIKI.



CAPTAIN,
I'VE
FOUND A
TYPO.

THE BEST
ONES ARE
WHEN YOU'RE
IN THAT
HALF-ASLEEP
HALF-AWAKE
STATE WHERE
DREAM AND
REALITY
START TO
MERGE--

I'VE HAD
SO MANY,
I CAN
EVEN MAKE
MYSELF
DREAM
THEM ON
COMMAND!

HAND
IT
OVER.



1 TO
POK
\$

IT ALWAYS
WARPS INTO
THE SAME
NIGHTMARE
EVERY TIME.

WHenever
I realize
I'm
having a
dream...



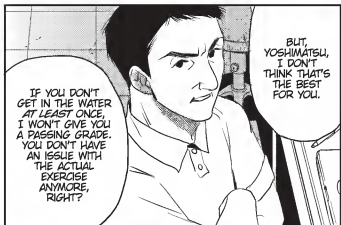
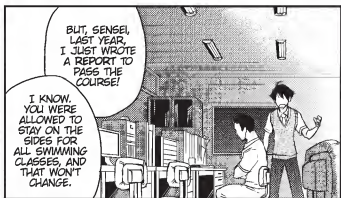
C'MON,
GUYS!
DON'T
IGNORE
ME!

HOTAKA!
SURELY
YOU'VE HAD
NALIGHTY
DREAMS?

NO.
NEVER.







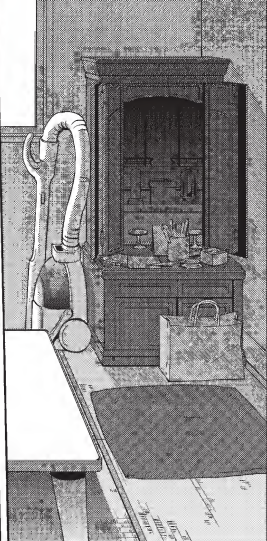




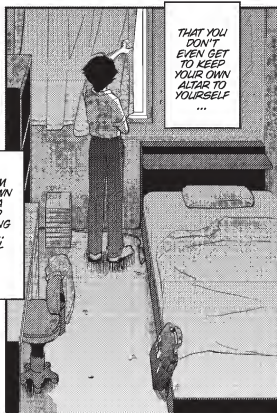
THIS
IS ALL
YOUR
FAULT...



FATHER.



THAT I'M
THIS DOWN
OVER A
STUPID
SWIMMING
CLASS...
IT'S ALL
YOUR
FAULT.



THAT YOU
DON'T
EVEN GET
TO KEEP
YOUR OWN
ALTAR TO
YOURSELF
...



"I
COMPLETELY
SYMPATHIZE
WITH WHERE
YOU'RE
COMING
FROM."



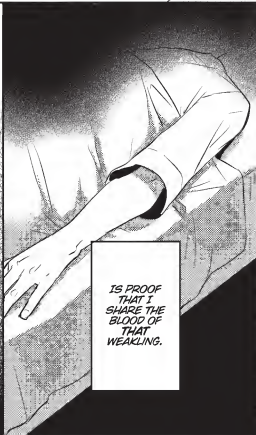
THAT'S
NOT IT,
SENSEI.

"I'LL MAKE
SURE
NO ONE'S
THERE TO
SEE YOUR
SURGERY
SCAR."

THIS
SCAR...

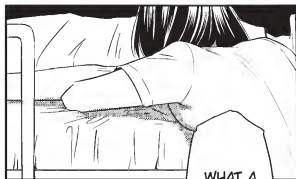


THIS
UGLY
MARK...



IS PROOF
THAT I
SHARE THE
BLOOD OF
THAT
WEAKLING.







HOTAKA,
ARE YOU
HOME
YET?

HOTAKA!

I
HATE
IT!

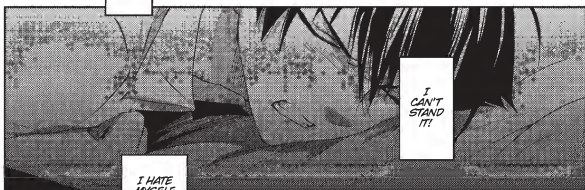
THE
SCAR
ON MY
CHEST IS
PROOF
OF THAT.

A WEAK
FATHER
PASSED
HIS WEAK
HEART
ONTO HIS
WEAK
SON.

CRASH



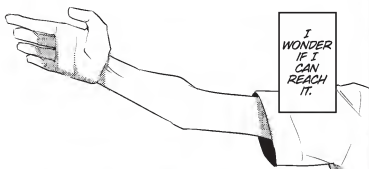
HE
MUST'VE
PASSED
THE
CONDITION
ON TO ME.



I
CAN'T
STAND
IT!

I HATE
MYSELF
FOR BEING
SUCH A
WEAKLING.

I
HATE
ME!

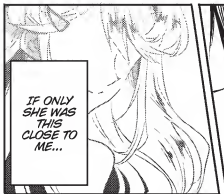


I
WONDER
IF I
CAN
REACH
IT.



HUH?
WHAT'S
THAT?

IT'S
SHINING
REALLY
BRIGHTLY.



IF ONLY
SHE WAS
THIS
CLOSE TO
ME...



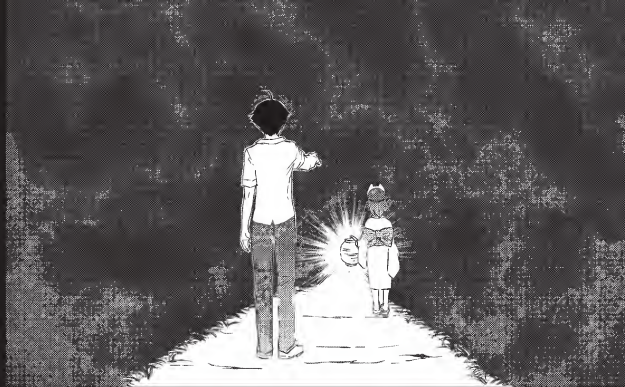
IF
ONLY
...

THIS
LIGHT
WAS
AWAY
NIKI.



THIS
HAS TO
BE A
DREAM.

WAIT...







HOTAKA,
ARE YOU
AWAKE
YET?



I FOUND
YOUR
SWIMSUIT
LIKE YOU
ASKED
YESTERDAY.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
GET A TOWEL
AND EVERY-
THING ELSE
YOURSELF,
THOUGH.
I NEED TO
GET GOING.



MAN,
CAN'T I
GET SOME
SOLACE
AND DREAM
ABOUT NIKI
INSTEAD?

2/IK

2/IK
2/IK

2/IIIIK

BOTH
MY LIFE
AND MY
DREAMS
ARE TOO
BITTER.









!!

LIM...
IS THAT
GUY
DROWNING
IN THE
POOL?

THE
WHOLE
SWIMMING
CLUB IS
HERE....!!

SENSEI,
AREN'T WE
SUPPOSED
TO START
PRACTICE
SOON?

I'M GONNA
DIE. I'M
SO GONNA
DIE IF
AWAYA NIKI
SEES ME
LIKE THIS!

BLOB

BLOB

BLOB

BLOB

ALIGH!!
NO WAY!!
HE
PROMISED
HE'D DELAY
SWIMMING
PRACTICE
TODAY!!



OH
THANK
GOD! I'M
ALMOST AT
TWENTY-
FIVE
METERS...!

HOTAKA?

YOU
CAN DO
IT,
HOTAKA!!

J-JUST
KEEP
SWIMMING,
CAPTAIN!
JUST
KEEP
SWIMMING!

NO!!
YOU
DOLTS,
DON'T
SHOUT
MY
NAME!!



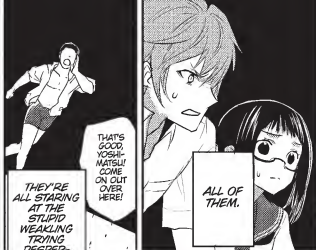


SPLASH!!



SHE
SAW!





THEY'RE ALL STARING AT THE STUPID WEAKLING TRYING DESPERATELY TO HIDE A SCAR.

THAT'S GOOD, YOSHI-MATSU! COME ON OUT OVER HERE!

ALL OF THEM.



I HATE THIS!!



THEY'RE LOOKING AT ME.



HERE, GRAB MY HAND.

WHAT, CAN'T GET OUT?

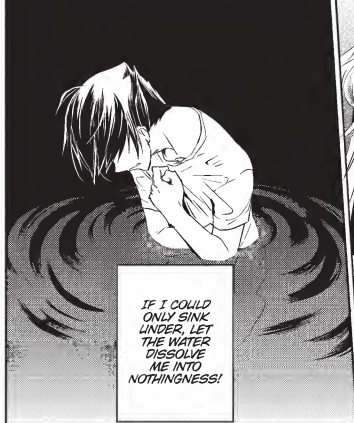


O-OH...

UM...!



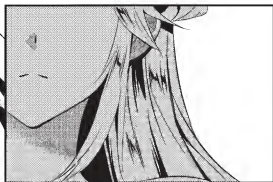
WHA --?!



IF I COULD
ONLY SINK
UNDER, LET
THE WATER
DISSOLVE
ME INTO
NOTHINGNESS!



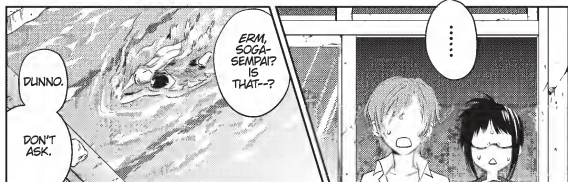
THIS IS
THE
WORST
DAY OF
MY
LIFE.



.....
?





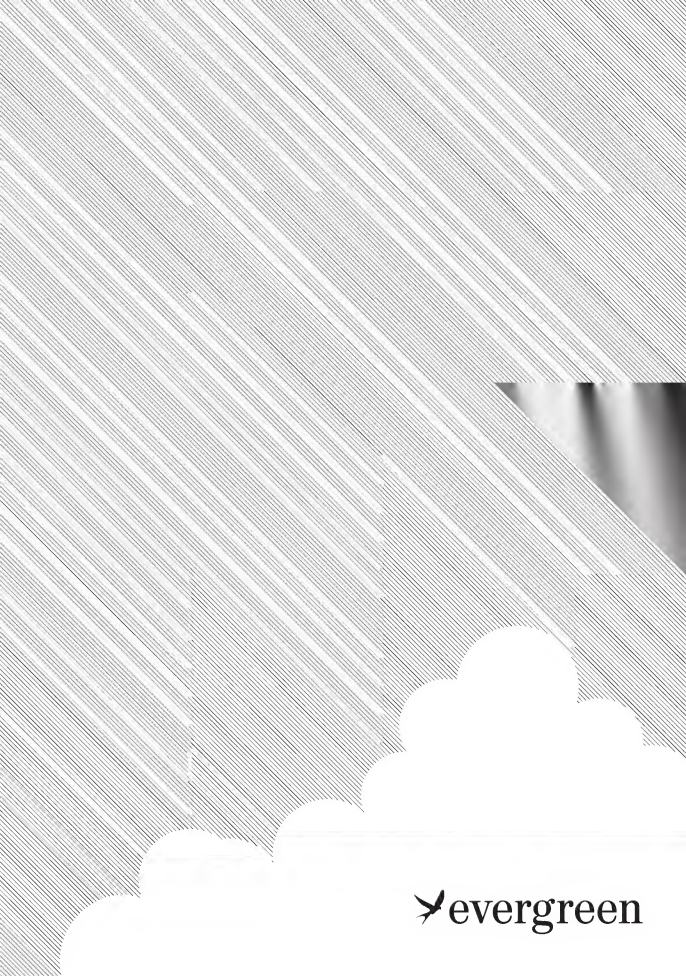




*BUT NOW
THAT IT'S
HAPPENED...*

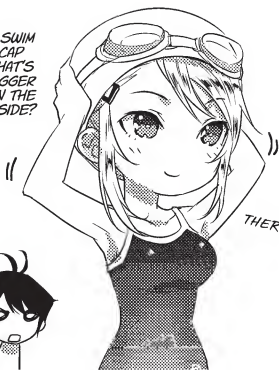
*THERE
IS JUST
ONE
THING
I CAN
SAY...*

*I CAN
DIE
HAPPY
NOW!!*



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A SWIM
CAP
THAT'S
BIGGER
ON THE
INSIDE?



THERE!

WHERE
THE
HECK
DOES
THAT
ALL THAT
HAIR
GO?!



I WAS
SAVED BY
AWAYA NIKI,
OF ALL
PEOPLE.



Chapter 2: The Incident



HOW DOES SHE EVEN KNOW I EXIST? WHY WOULD SHE HELP ME?

AWAY NIKI PRACTICALLY LIVES IN A DIFFERENT, UNREACHABLE UNIVERSE.



WHA...

WH...

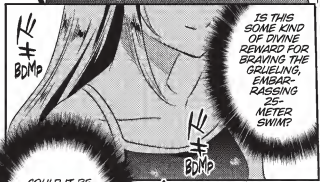
WHUT ?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?



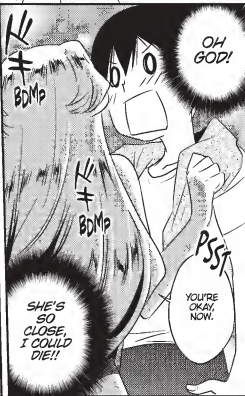
ZAMER

ZAMER



IS THIS SOME KIND OF DIVINE REWARD FOR BRAVING THE GRUELING, EMBARRASSING 25-METER SWIM?

COULD IT BE THAT SHE'S ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN ME? DARE I HOPE?



OH GOD!

PSST

YOU'RE OKAY, NOW.

SHE'S SO CLOSE, I COULD DIE!!



OH.



SHE
PITIES
ME
BECAUSE
OF THE
SCAR.

SHE DID
GET AN
EYEFUL
OF IT A
MINUTE
AGO.



SO
THAT'S
WHY.



STUPID.
YOU
SHOULD'VE
THOUGHT
OF THAT
FIRST,
BEFORE
GETTING
YOUR
HOPES UP.



OF COURSE
IT MAKES
MORE
SENSE
THAN MY
STUPID
FANTASY
ACTUALLY
HAPPENING.



SHE TOOK
PITY ON
ME AND
LENT ME
A HAND.

THAT'S
ALL.



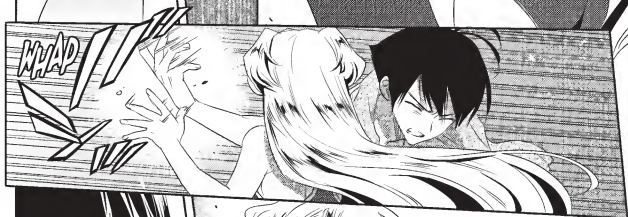
A FLEETING
MOMENT
OF MERCY
BESTOWED
ON A FOOL,
WIMPY,
WUSSY--



TOO
CLOSE...
TOO
HOT...

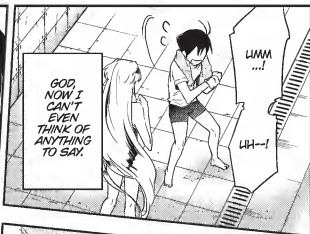
IF YOU
WALK WITH
ME LIKE
THIS, NO
ONE WILL
SEE IT.

THERE'S A
CHANGING
ROOM JUST
PAST THE
SHOWERS.



ACK!

CRAP!
I DID
IT AGAIN
...!



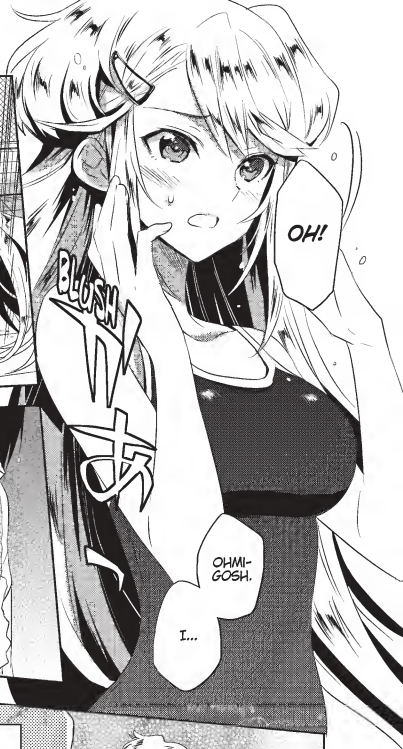


I'M
SO
SORRY!

NO!

IT'S
NOT
YOUR
FAULT,
REALLY,
IT
ISN'T.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO
FEEL
BAD
FOR
PITYING
ME.



OH!

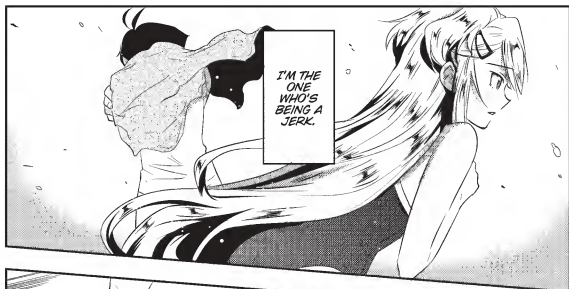
OHMI-
GOSH.

I...

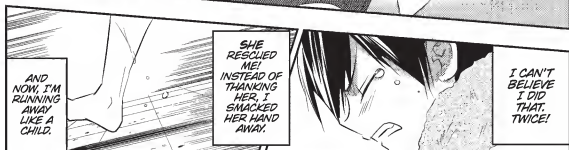


I'M THE
ONE WHO'S
EMBAR-
RASSED
JUST BY
STANDING
THIS
CLOSE TO
YOU.

I'M THE
ONE
WHO'S
BEING
WEAK AND
PATHETIC.



I'M THE
ONE
WHO'S
BEING A
JERK.



AND
NOW, I'M
RUNNING
AWAY
LIKE A
CHILD.

SHE
RESCUED
ME!
INSTEAD OF
THANKING
HER, I
SMACKED
HER HAND
AWAY.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I DID
THAT.
TWICE!

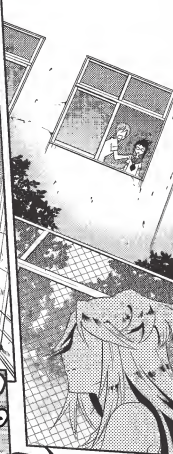


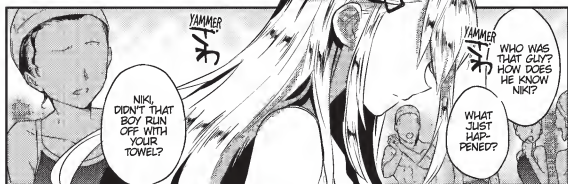
RUN-
NING
AWAY...

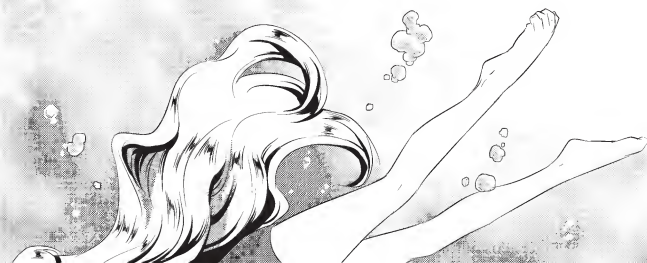


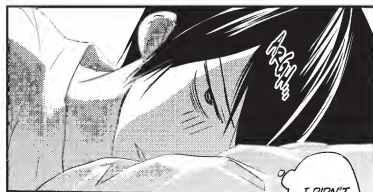
FROM WHAT
COULD HAVE
BEEN MY
ONCE-IN-A-
LIFETIME
CHANCE...

TO GET
TO KNOW
THE GIRL
I'VE PINED
FOR FOR
SO LONG.

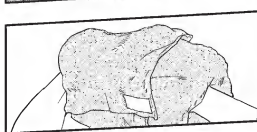




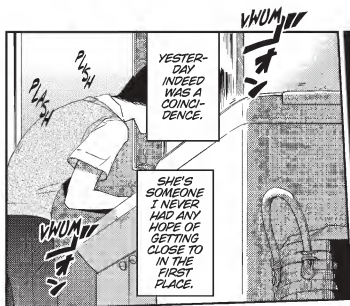












YESTER-
DAY
INDEED
WAS A
COINCIDENCE.

SHE'S
SOMEONE
I NEVER
HAD ANY
HOPE OF
GETTING
CLOSE TO
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.



THIS IS
STUPID.
WHY DO I
FEEL LIKE
I LOST
SOMEONE
WHO WAS
NEVER
EVEN
MINE?

I
SHOULD
KNOW
BETTER.



COINCIDENCE?

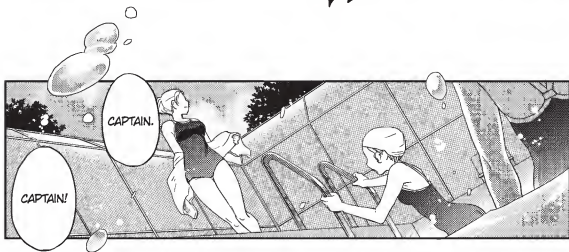


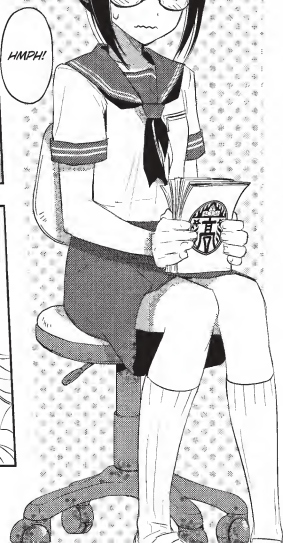
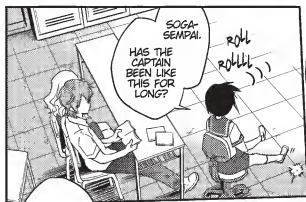
I LOOK
LIKE I
WAS
BAWLING
MY EYES
OUT.

I LOOK
HAGGARD.
WORN
OUT.



BUT
LOOK
AT
ME.









THEY ARE
MALE, AS YOU
ARE, YET WHY?
WHY DOES THE
HEART RACE AT
THE MEREST
GLIMPSE OF
THEIR NAKED
FLESH?



IS IT
BECAUSE
OF THEIR
BEAUTIFULLY
EXPOSED,
YET PERKY
NIP--

LET'S NOT
FORGET THE
GLORIOUS
SIGHT OF
THOSE ATHLETIC
HIGH-SCHOOL
BOYS AND THEIR
BARE CHESTS,
WHICH YOU
LOVE SO
MUCH.

AAA!!
\$
\$
\$



....



ON-CHAN,
THAT
TOTALLY
HAD THE
REVERSE
EFFECT!
HA
HA
HA!

BWA
HA
HA!

WHAT
ON EARTH
HAS
GOTTEN
INTO
HIM?

T
CH!

LIGH!
LIKE, HOW
ABOUT
YOU PAY
ATTENTION
TO ME
NOW?

ROLL
!!! ROLL





AND NOT JUST TO US.



GLANCE



ANYWAY, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD STOP MOCKING IT.

YOU MAY NOT CARE FOR IT, BUT TO US, IT IS THE PRECIOUS FRUIT OF OUR CHOSEN PASSION.

す
SWEE



THAT "READER" IS PROBABLY YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR, Y'KNOW.

STOP SAYING SUCH INSENSITIVE THINGS! OR DO YOU WANT ME TO BE MAD AT YOU, TOO?!



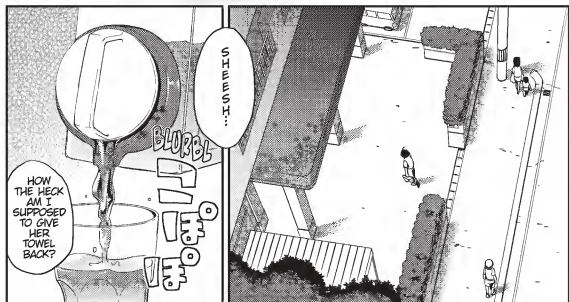
IT MAY ONLY BE ONE, BUT ONCE I PUT THESE OUT HERE, SOMEONE DOES TAKE A COPY.

HAVING A DEDICATED READER MEANS WHAT WE DO IS VALUED AND IMPORTANT.

MANGA CLUB TAKE FREE









ERM...
LIKE I
SAID...

KA-
CHAK!!

RSTL
RSTL
RSTL



GLUG!

GLUG!



YES...
YES...
WELL...



SHE
SOUNDS
SO PUT
OUT.

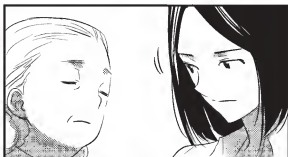
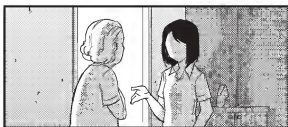
IT'S...
NOT
ABOUT
WORK
...?

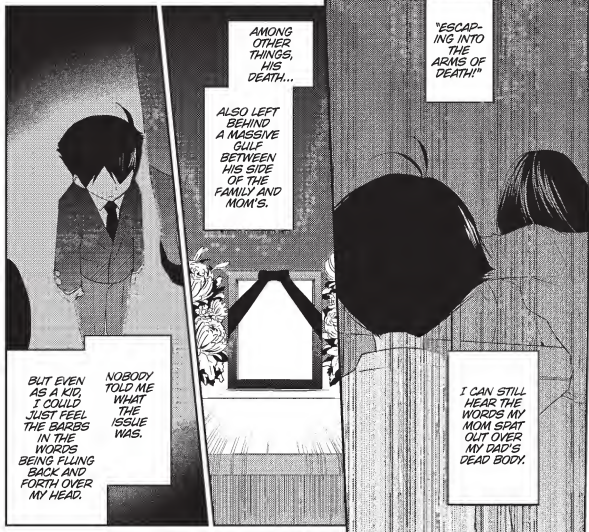
MOTHER,
CAN I
TALK TO
YOU A
MINUTE?

ALL RIGHT.
I WILL SEND
SOMEONE
OVER.
I GUESS.
YES...
OKAY.



WE DON'T
HAVE VERY
MUCH TO DO
WITH THEM
ANYMORE.
TO BE
HONEST,
I DON'T
SEE WHY WE
HAVE TO...





AMONG
OTHER
THINGS,
HIS
DEATH...

"ESCAP-
ING INTO
THE
ARMS OF
DEATH!"

ALSO LEFT
BEHIND
A MASSIVE
GULF
BETWEEN
HIS SIDE
OF THE
FAMILY AND
MOM'S.

BUT EVEN
AS A KID,
I COULD
JUST FEEL
THE BARBS
IN THE
WORDS
BEING FLUNG
BACK AND
FORTH OVER
MY HEAD.

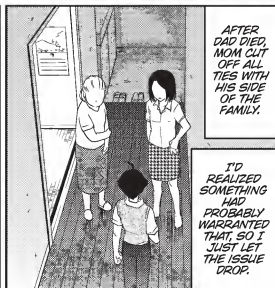
NOBODY
TOLD ME
WHAT
THE
ISSUE
WAS.

I CAN STILL
HEAR THE
WORDS MY
MOM SPAT
OUT OVER
MY DAD'S
DEAD BODY.



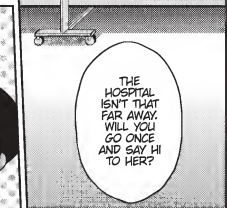
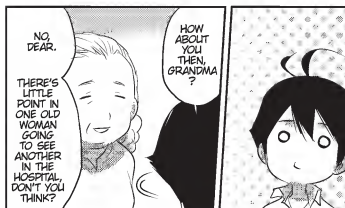
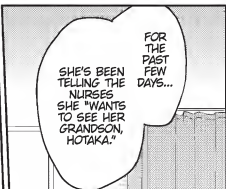
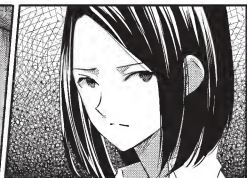
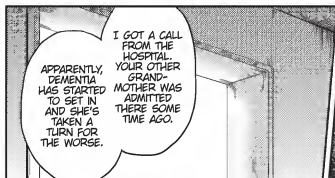
UM...
WHY ARE
YOU
ASKING
ME THIS
NOW?

I NEVER
EXPECTED
MOM TO
BE THE
FIRST ONE
TO BRING
IT BACK
UP AGAIN.



AFTER
DAD DIED,
MOM CUT
OFF ALL
TIES WITH
HIS SIDE
OF THE
FAMILY.

I'D
REALIZED
SOMETHING
HAD
PROBABLY
WARRANTED
THAT, SO I
JUST LET
THE ISSUE
DROP.





WEASELING OUT?



STILL...
I AM
HER
GRAND-
SON.

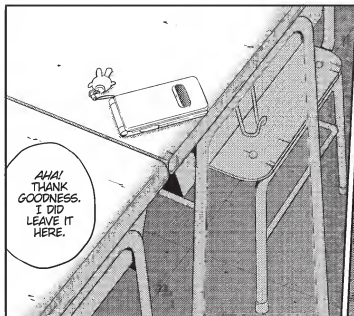


I'D
RATHER
NOT GO,
EITHER.

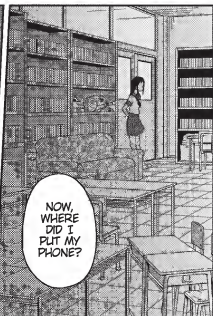
I MEAN,
NANNA WAS
NICE TO ME
AND ALL,
BUT I HAVEN'T
SEEN HER
FOR YEARS.
IT'D BE
REALLY
AWKWARD.

I GUESS
I KINDA
HAVE
TO GO.





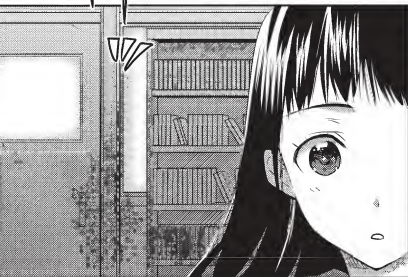
AHA!
THANK
GOODNESS.
I DID
LEAVE IT
HERE.



NOW,
WHERE
DID I
PUT MY
PHONE?

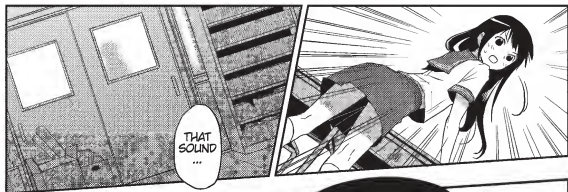


OH WELL.
NOW TO
GO HOME
AND TAKE
A BATH--



CONSIDER-
ATION
TOWARDS
OTHERS ISN'T
REALLY A
THING WITH
PEOPLE
IN THIS CLUB.

IT
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
ANYONE
MESSED
WITH IT.
GOOD.







NO.
WAY.



NIKI,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
C'MON!

SORRY!
COMING!



THIS
IS
BIG.



Nishi High
MANGA CLUB ZINE

NOW IS
NOT THE
TIME TO
ZOMBIE
OUT!!

CAPTAIN
...



SEAL CAT

SEAL CAT

& His Merry Friends



R.O.E



KELP-SAN



OTTER DOG



EEE!!



HERE I
AM ON
THIS
PATH
AGAIN...

GREAT.



ONLY TO
HAVE MASK
GIRL TURN
AROUND
AND STAB
ME IN THE
HEART.



...WALKING
TOWARDS
THAT
LIGHT.



Yil

Captain!

THE SAME
OLD
NIGHTMARE,
ALL OVER
AGAIN--



A serious
matter
needs
attending
to!!

Very, very
serious!!!

AH!



HN?

I'VE HAD THIS
DREAM FOR
SO LONG.
THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
IT'S CHANGED.
AMAZING
JOB,
ON-CHAN.

Something
completely
unexpected
has
been going on
behind our backs!
I witnessed it
earlier!!

THE
NIGHT-
MARE
IS IN
LEAGUE
WITH
ON-CHAN
NOW.

WAIT, NO.
I CAN'T
PUT HER
THERE.
SHE'LL GET
STABBED,
TOO.

Accordingly,
I will tell you
in detail
tomorrow at
school--
OOF!!!

WIM...
SO AM I
STILL
GETTING
STABBED?

It is so
incredibly
stupendous
that it doesn't
deserve to be
summarized
in a text!!

BUT I DON'T
REALLY WANT
THIS CUTE
LITTLE
PALM-SIZED
ON-CHAN TO
HAVE TO
WITNESS MY
UGLY DEATH,
EITHER.

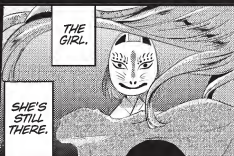
However, I will
say one thing.
After hearing
the news,
you can die a
happy death!

That I can
guarantee
you!

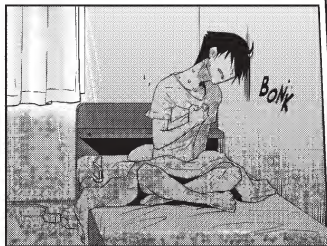
Good
night!

Bye-
byeeeeeee!!



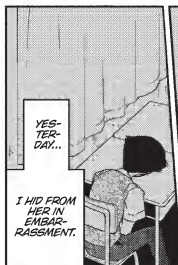


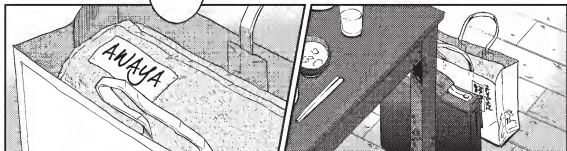




Chapter 3: Lunch Recess Excitement

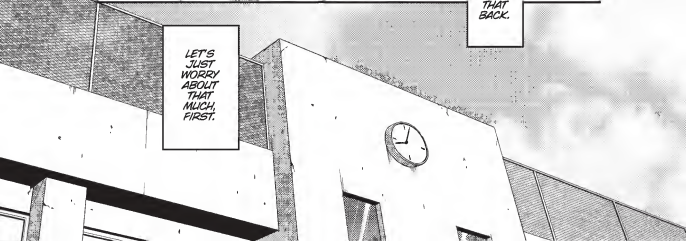




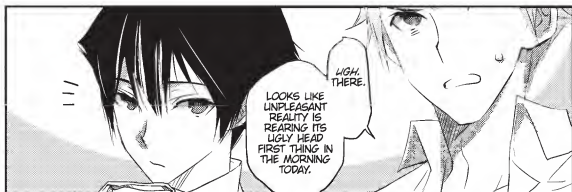


I
SHOULD
GIVE
THAT
BACK.

LET'S
JUST
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT
MUCH,
FIRST.









WHY IS IT
THAT ALL
LOOKS-AND-
NO-BRAINS
GUYS LIKE
HIM ARE
ALWAYS SO
POPULAR?



SEE? THAT
AIRHEAD
MAN-BIMBO
SOGA IS
FLIRTING WITH
YET ANOTHER
ONE OF HIS
GROUPIES.



THERE,
SHE WAS
ONLY
THIS BIG.



SHE
SOUNDED
REALLY
EXCITED IN
THAT TEXT
SHE SENT.
I WONDER
WHY?

SHE
WAS
EVEN
IN MY
DREAM.

I WAS
JUST
READY
TO
FALL
ASLEEP!

AWA!!



ON-
CHAN?

IT'S TOTALLY
UNFAIR! JUST
BECAUSE HE'S
HANDSOME...
AUGH! I'M
DEPRESSING
MYSELF JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT!





NO, NO.
I DO
THINK
SHE'S
CUTE.

"MAYBE"?!
YOU DON'T
THINK
SHE'S
CUTE?!

HOW DARE
YOU BE
SO COLD
TO ONE
OF YOUR
OWN CLUB
MEMBERS!!

AT LEAST
NORMALLY.

BUT
WHENEVER
SHE'S
AROUND
SOGA,
SHE ACTS
SOMEHOW...
UNCUTE.



HEY,
FUTURE
CAPTAIN!

CAPTAIN,
STOP
CALLING
ME THAT,
PLEASE!



YEAH,
SOGA'S
A FLIRT.
BUT HE
DOESN'T
DESERVE
TO BE
HATED.



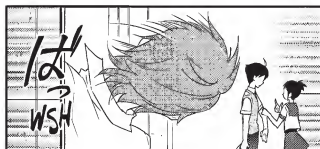
NOTHING.

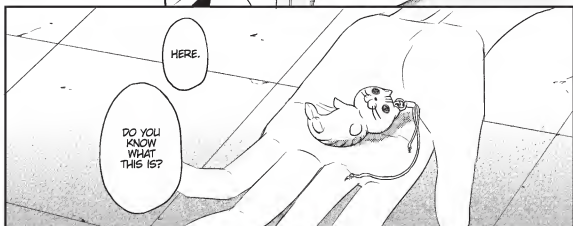
"NOTHING"
AGAIN.
YOU SURE
ARE HIDING
A LOT.

WAIT,
WHAT
AM I
THINK-
ING?

WHAT
IS IT,
YOSHI-
MATSU?











HUIH?!
HEY!!

DROPPED
YOUR
GUARD!
HIYAH!!



ON-CHAN,
WAIT!
COME BACK
HERE!
I STILL
DON'T GET
WHAT'S
GOING
ON....!



WHA?



BUT THE
OTHER DAY,
WHEN YOU
HAD THAT
"INCIDENT"
DURING
YOUR
SWIMMING
EXAM...

I EXPECT
YOU
WERE TOO
PANICKED
AT THE
TIME TO
REALLY
NOTICE...

VAGUE?
S/GH,
NEED I
SPELL
IT OUT?

GOODNESS,
YOU SURE
ARE DENSE
SOMETIMES.

ME?
YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO'S
BEING
VAGUE.



YOUR
LONGING
GLANCES AT
A SPECIAL
SOMEONE
MAY NOT
HAVE BEEN
AS ONE-
SIDED AS
YOU
THOUGHT.

THAT IS
WHAT MY
MAIDEN
SENSE IS
TELLING
ME.



AND
"THAT"
GIRL
FIRST
SAW
YOU...

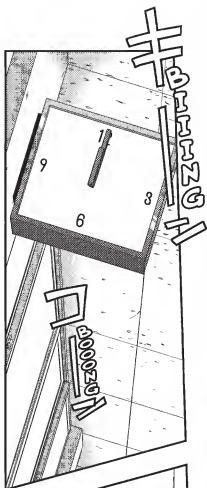
IN
OTHER
WORDS...



SHE
CALLED
YOU BY
YOUR
FIRST
NAME.











LIKE I
COULD
EVER
REALLY
DO
THAT!!



HECK,
I EVEN
FORGOT
TO IMAGINE
IT AS A
TWO-WAY
CONVERSA-
TION!

GAH!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
WASTED MY
ENTIRE
MORNING
WITH THAT
PATHETIC,
IMPOSSIBLE
SCENARIO!



BESIDES
...

NEVER
MIND
THE
"THANK
YOU'S" ...

THE "I'M
SORRY'S"
...



OH,
I WAS
JUST
FURPING
WITH
YOU!

I MUST'VE
SOMEHOW
CHANNELED
THE SPIRIT
OF SOBA.

I COULD
NEVER ACT
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.
IT'S
VIRTUALLY
IMPOSSI-
BLE!



HI THERE,
AWAYA-SAN!

HA
HA!

I'M
YOSHI-
MATSU!
OH,
BUT YOU
KNEW
THAT
ALREADY.



THIS CELL
PHONE STRAP IS
YOURS, RIGHT?
ONE OF MY
CLUB MEMBERS
NOTICED YOU
DROP IT.

BUT
THAT'S
HOW YOU
KNEW ME,
RIGHT?

MAN, I CAN
STILL HARDLY
BELIEVE THAT
YOU READ
OUR CLUB
ANTHOLOGY!

THANKS
SO MUCH
FOR YOUR
HELP AT
THE POOL
THE OTHER
DAY.
HERE'S
YOUR
TOWEL
BACK.



IS IT SAFE
TO SAY THAT
YOU'RE, AH,
"INTERESTED"
IN ME? JUST
KIDDING.
"WINK"

"I KNOW,
TO LIKE
TO TALK
A LITTLE
MORE
ABOUT THAT,
IF YOU
DON'T
MIND.

SO I WAS
REALLY
SURPRISED
AND HAPPY
TO FIND OUT
YOU KNEW
OF ME!

WH... LET ME
BE HONEST.
I'VE ADMIR-
ED YOU FOR A
LONG TIME,
AWAYA-SAN!
I'D WATCH
YOU SWIM
FROM OUR
CLUB ROOM
WINDOW.



THAT'S
ALL I
REALLY
WANT
TO SAY
TO HER.



ALL I
WANT
TO
KNOW
IS...

CAN WE
BE
FRIENDS?



I...
I CAN'T
DO THIS.

YAMMER

OH MY
GAWD
GO TO THE
ROOM!

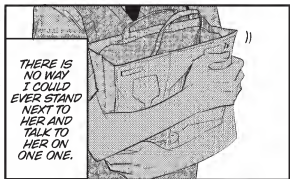
NO WAY
WHAT
HAPPENED?

YAMMER



BUT IN
FRONT
OF HER,
I'M SURE
I'LL
FREEZE
UP.

YES,
I CAN
WALK
AND
TALK
NOW...



THERE IS
NO WAY
I COULD
EVER STAND
NEXT TO
HER AND
TALK TO
HER ON
ONE ONE.



YEAH, THAT'S
A GOOD
IDEA.



GOOD.

I CAN
JUST ASK
THEM TO
GIVE THIS
BACK TO
AWAYA-
SAN
FOR ME.



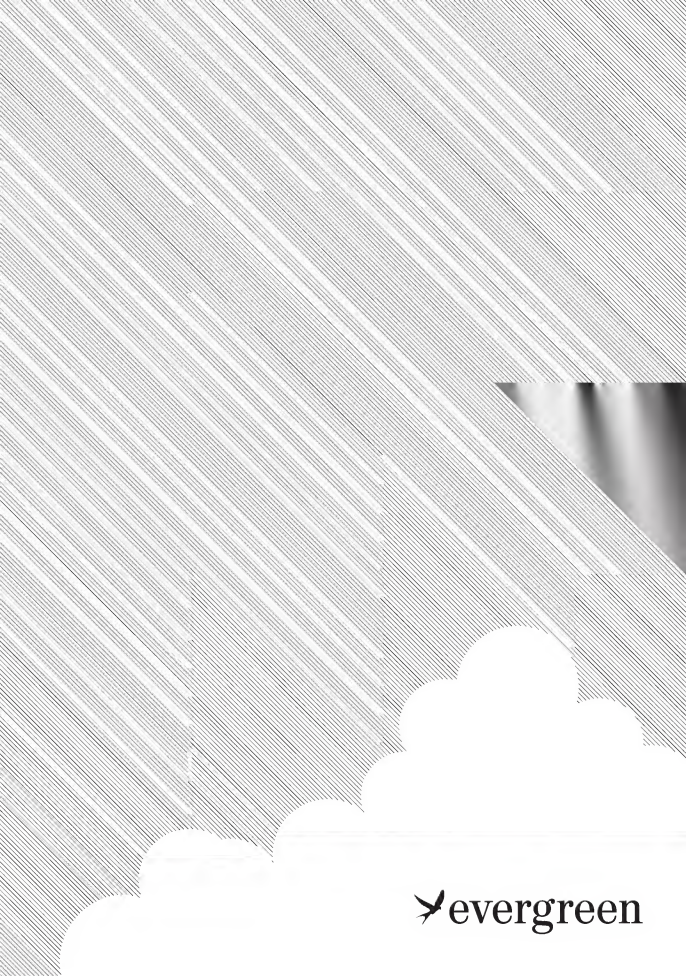
ALMOST
LIKE...
WAIT!

WHOA!
WHAT
LONG,
SLIM
LEGS!!

UM,
E-EXCUSE
ME!

COULD
YOU
PLEASE
HAND
THIS TO
AWAYA-
SAN...





 evergreen



Chapter 4: Bloody Communication



DEAR,
GOD,
IN,
HEA-
VEN!

Ni...

Ki...



AH!



WA...



YA...





I HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING.
I HAVE
TO SAY
SOME-
THING!

OH!
RIGHT!
I'M SUP-
POSED TO
GIVE HER
TOWEL
BACK.



AND I
HAD A
WHOLE
LIST OF
THINGS
TO SAY.

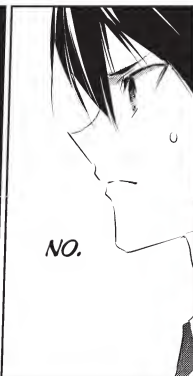


I'M
BOTH-
ERING
HER,
AREN'T
I?

IF SOME
STRANGER
FROZE UP
IN FRONT
OF ME,
I'D BE
ANNOYED
TO DEATH.



JUST
BLURT
IT
OUT!



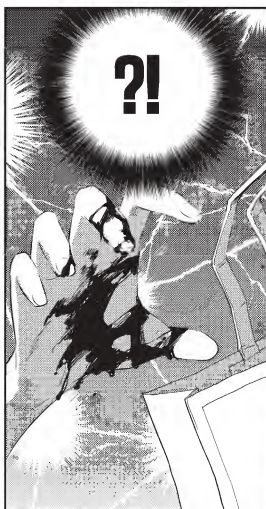
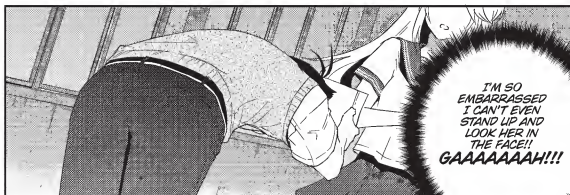
NO.



AM I
REALLY
GOING
TO LET
THIS END
LIKE
YESTER-
DAY?

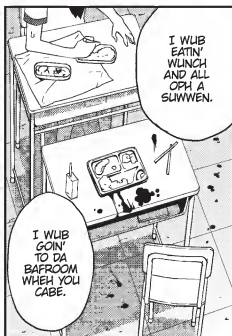
AND
LIKE MY
DREAM?
WITH ME
DOING
NOTHING?

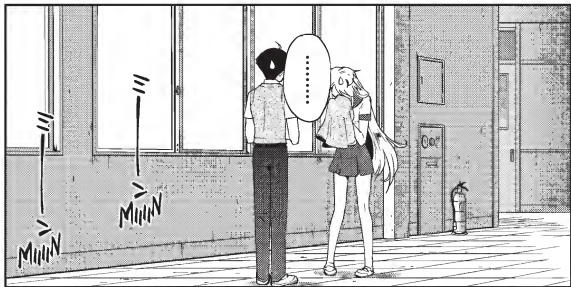


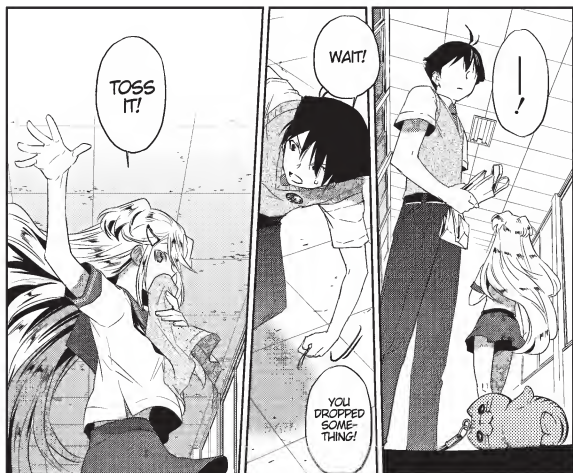


*Ado Mizumori is an illustrator, actress and singer, best known for setting the standards for what the Japanese consider as Kawaii.



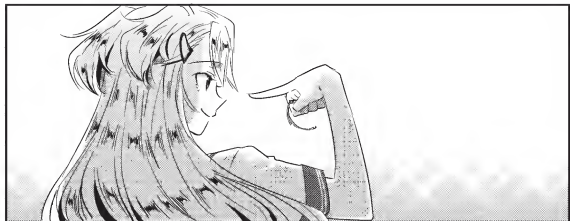


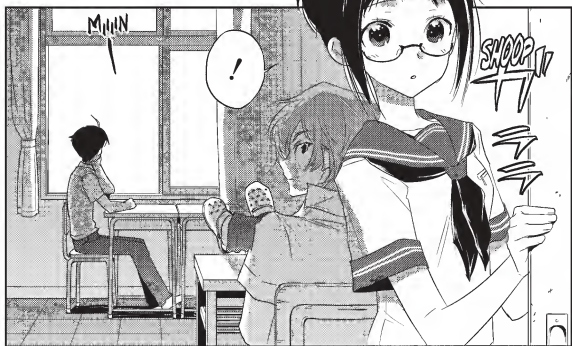
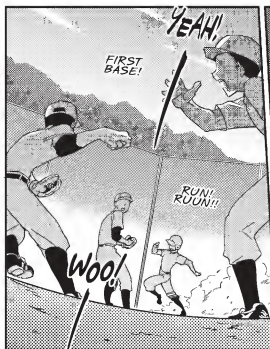






FRIENDS!









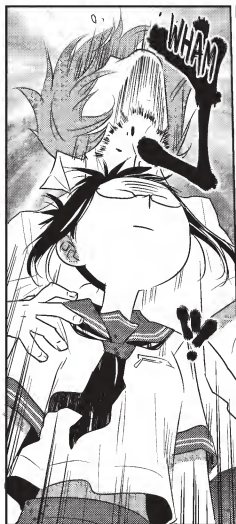
CORRECT ANSWER:

How beautiful it is to have good friends.

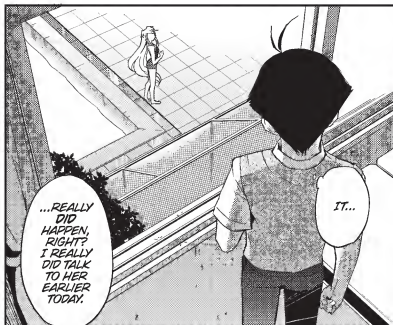


By Mushanokoji Saneatsu.









...REALLY
DID
HAPPEN,
RIGHT?
I REALLY
DID TALK
TO HER
EARLIER
TODAY.

IT...



YIKES!

CRAP!

DID SHE
HEAR US
MESSING
AROUND
UP HERE?



THE
SHIM-
MERING
SUN
THAT IS
AWAYA
NIKI...

THE
QUEEN
OF
SUMMER
...

I CAN
HARDLY
BELIEVE
IT.



RIGHT?



IS NOW
FRIENDS
WITH
ME.

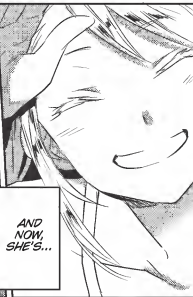


AWAY NIKI
HERSELF IS
LOOKING
RIGHT AT
ME. SHE
SAID SHE
WAS MY
FRIEND.



IS WHAT
HAPPENED
EVEN POS-
SIBLE?

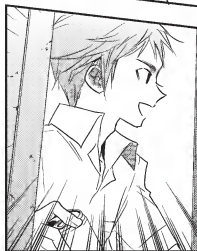
AM I
DREAM-
ING?



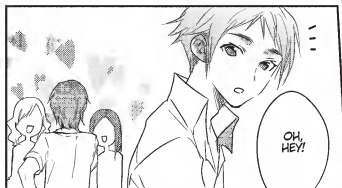
AND
NOW,
SHE'S...













HUHP

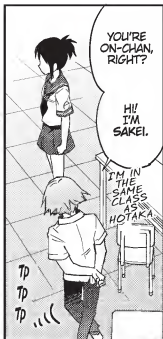


EHEH
HEH...

I AM
NOT
CUTE.

I WAS
LIKE,
WHOA,
WHO'S
THAT
CUTE
GIRL?

HEY, UH,
YOU WERE
HANGING
OUT
OUTSIDE
OUR
CLASSROOM
THIS
MORNING,
RIGHT?



YOU'RE
ON-CHAN,
RIGHT?

HU!
I'M
SAKEI.

I'M IN
THE
SAME
CLASS
AS
HOTAKA

TP
TP
TP
...

I
SAID...

I AM
NOT
CUTE.
AT
ALL.



NOTHING
NEVER
MIND,
I'LL JUST
GO
HOME.

OH, HEY,
FISH!
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE?

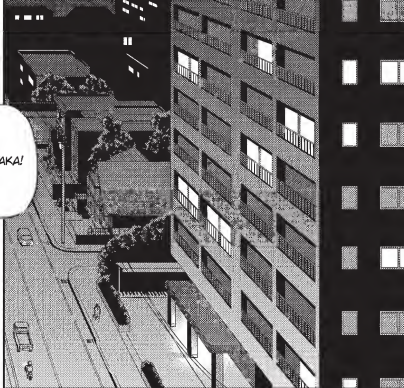


???

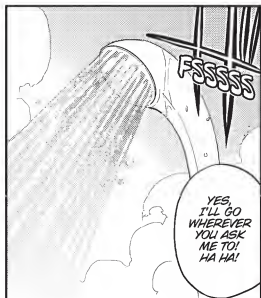


HOTAKA!

DON'T FORGET THAT
YOU'RE
VISITING THE
HOSPITAL
TOMORROW,
OKAY?



I AM?
WHAT
FOR?



YES,
I'LL GO
WHEREVER
YOU ASK
ME TO!
HA HA!



SURE,
I'LL
GO.

SOUL



WASHA

WASHA

OH,
RIGHT. I'M
SUPPOSED
TO VISIT MY
PATERNAL
GRAND-
MOTHER.



HECK,
FORGET THE
HOSPITAL.
I'D FLY TO
THE ENDS
OF THE
EARTH IF
I COULD!

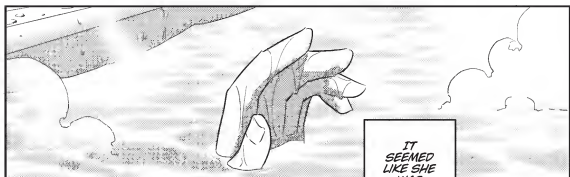


BECAUSE
RIGHT NOW,
I AM THE
HAPPIEST
GUY ON
THE
PLANET.



JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT
MAKES
ME GRIN
LIKE A
MANIAC...

AWAY
NIKI
AND
ME.



IT
SEEMED
LIKE SHE
WAS
WORLDS
AWAY
FROM
ME...

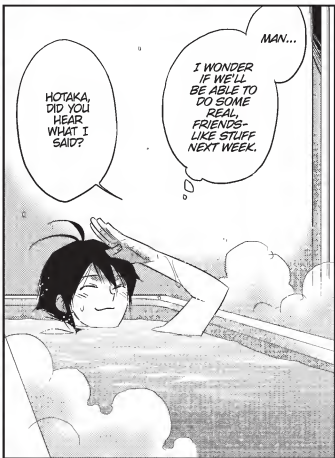


I NEVER
THOUGHT
THERE'D
BE A PATH
THAT
COULD
BRING US
CLOSER.



NYE
EA
H.

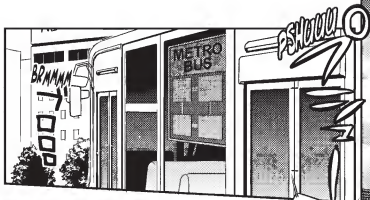
IS
THAT A
YES
OR A
NO?



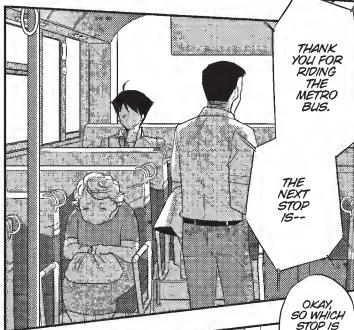
HOTAKA,
DID YOU
HEAR
WHAT I
SAID?

MAN...

I WONDER
IF WE'LL
BE ABLE TO
DO SOME
REAL,
FRIENDS-
LIKE STUFF
NEXT WEEK.



WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
MORNING.



THANK
YOU FOR
RIDING
THE
METRO
BUS.

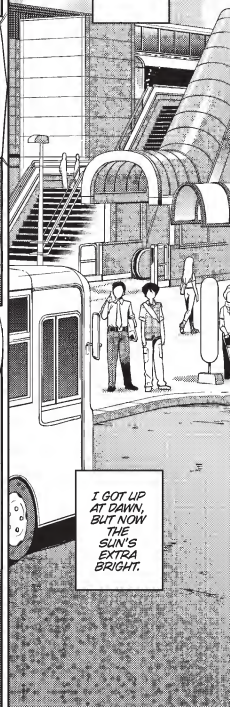
THE
NEXT
STOP
IS--



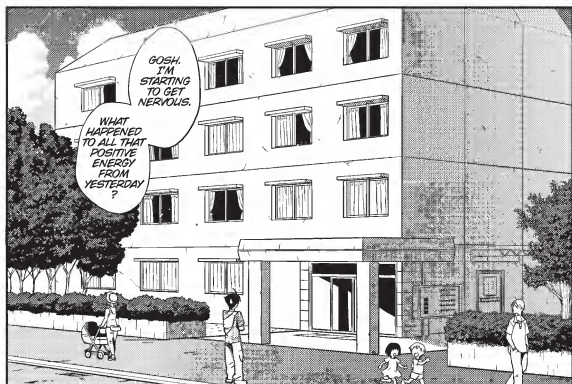
OKAY,
SO WHICH
STOP IS
CLOSEST
TO THE
HOSPITAL?

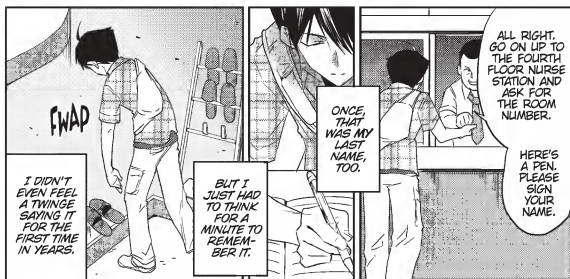
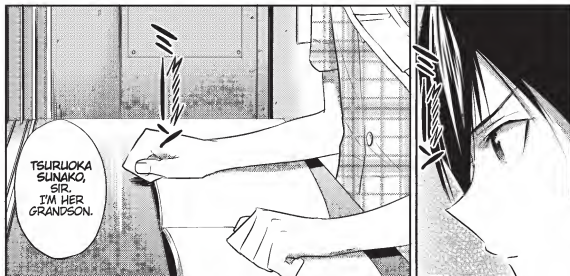
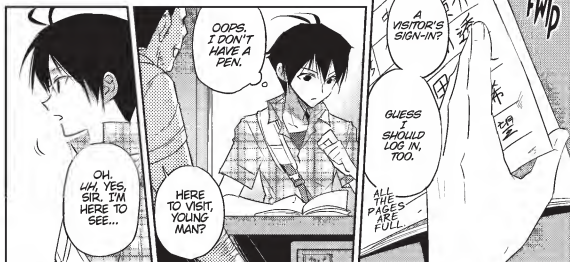
THIS BUS
WILL BE
STOPPING
AT THE
NEXT
STOP.

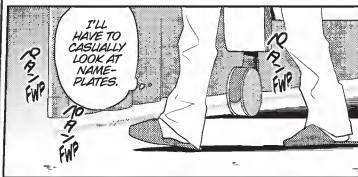
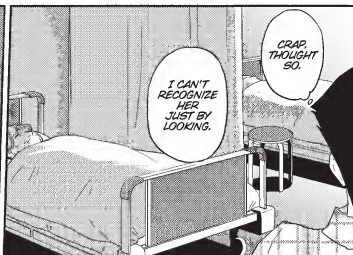
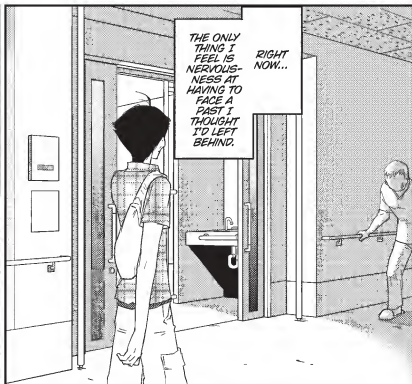
ACK!
THE
NEXT
ONE!

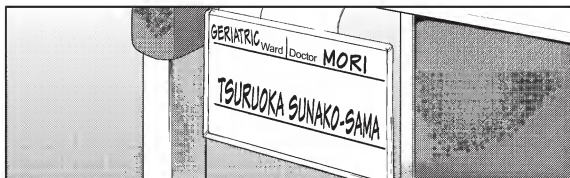


I GOT UP
AT DAWN,
BUT NOW
THE
SUN'S
EXTRA
BRIGHT.



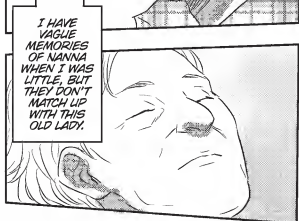






THIS
IS
HER?

LIM...



I HAVE
VAGUE
MEMORIES
OF NANNA
WHEN I WAS
LITTLE, BUT
THEY DON'T
MATCH UP
WITH THIS
OLD LADY.

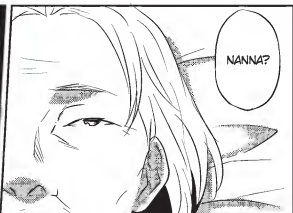


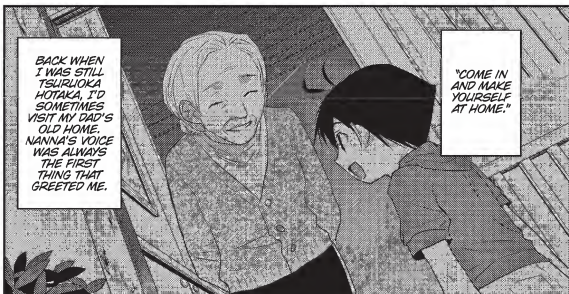
LIM...
NAN-
NA?

IT'S
HOTAKA.
DO YOU
REMEM-
BER?

BUT THE
NAME
PLATE
SAYS
THIS IS
HER.







BACK WHEN
I WAS STILL
TSURUOKA
HOTAKA, I'D
SOMETIMES
VISIT MY DAD'S
OLD HOME.
NANNA'S VOICE
WAS ALWAYS
THE FIRST
THING THAT
GREETED ME.

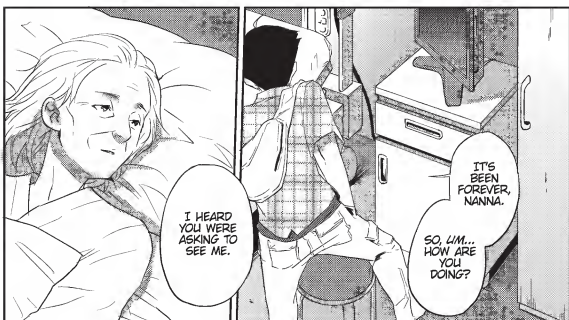
"COME IN
AND MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME."



HEARING
HER VOICE
BROUGHT
BACK SOME
FOND
MEMORIES.

A MINUTE
AGO, IT FELT
LIKE SHE
WAS SOME
STRANGER,
BUT NOW...
SHE'S MY
NANNA AGAIN.

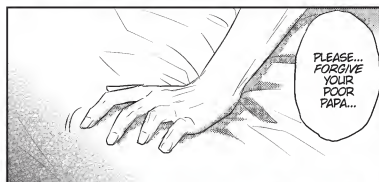
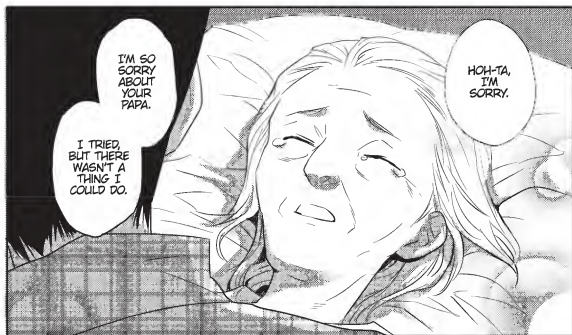
THANK
GOD.



I HEARD
YOU WERE
ASKING TO
SEE ME.

IT'S
BEEN
FOREVER,
NANNA.

SO, UM...
HOW ARE
YOU
DOING?





NOW
WHAT
DO I
DO?

NANNA IS
APOLOGIZ-
ING FOR
DAD DYING
EARLY...

BUT I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING
TO SAY
BACK. I
CAN'T THINK
OF MUCH TO
SAY AT ALL,
REALLY.



I
KNEW
IT.

THIS IS
HARDER
THAN I
THOUGHT.



HOLD
HER
HAND?

IS THIS
THE PART
WHERE
I'M SUP-
POSED TO
COMFORT
HER?



DRAWER
...



WHAT IS
EXPECTED
OF ME
HERE?





THERE SHOULD BE TWO.

ONE OF THEM IS FOR YOU, HOH-TA.



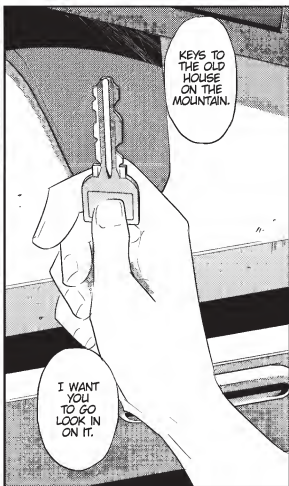
THAT'S RIGHT... TWO KEYS.

WH, NANNA? I ONLY SEE ONE...



THE OLD HOUSE ON THE MOUNTAIN.

I CAN'T GET AROUND ALL THAT WELL ANYMORE, SO I CAN'T GO UP THERE.
I'M SO WORRIED IT'S FALLING APART.



KEYS TO THE OLD HOUSE ON THE MOUNTAIN.

I WANT YOU TO GO LOOK IN ON IT.



IF IT CAN'T
GO TO HIM,
I WANT TO
SEE IT GIVEN
TO MY
GRANDKIDS.

YOUR
PAPA TOOK
REAL GOOD
CARE OF
THAT OLD
HOUSE.

PLEASE,
HOH-TA...



GO
LOOK IN
ON THAT
OLD
HOUSE.

IT'S ALL THE
WAY UP IN
THE MOUNTAINS,
WHERE NOBODY
GOES. I'M
SO WORRIED
ABOUT WHAT
MIGHT HAVE
HAPPENED
TO IT.

"COME
ON,
HOTAKA.

"IT'LL BE
ALL
RIGHT."



SURE.

I'LL
GO,
NANNA.



GLEN



PLEASE
BE SURE
TO GIVE
IT A
GOOD
LOOK,
HOH-TA.

I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
OF ANYTHING
ELSE I CAN
LEAVE TO MY
GRANDKIDS.



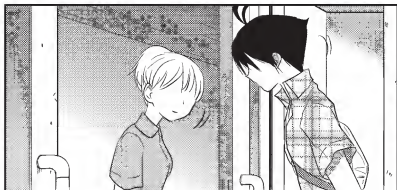
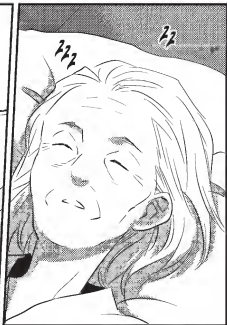
THANK
YOU SO
MUCH,
HOH-TA
DEAR.

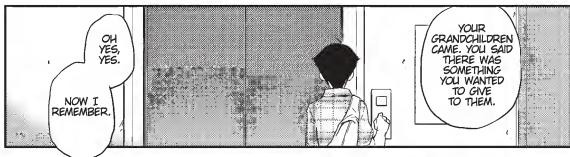
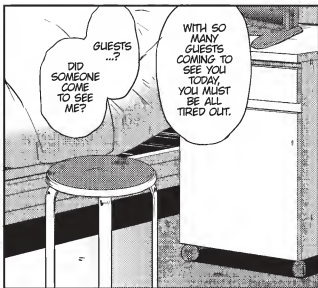
I HAVE
THE KEY
RIGHT HERE.
I'LL GO
CHECK ON
THE HOUSE
FOR YOU.

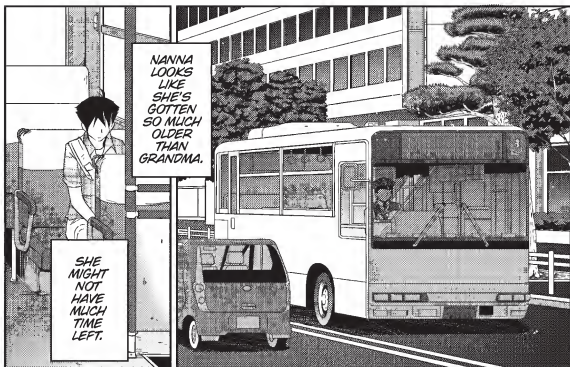
NO
PROB.



I
WILL.











BUT
WHERE
EXACTLY
IS IT,
AGAIN?

JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT
BRINGS
BACK
MEMORIES.



THERE
WAS A
RIVER
NEARBY.
I REMEM-
BER THAT.



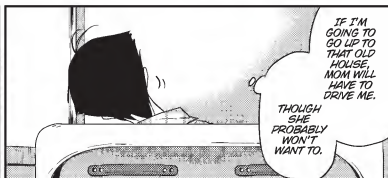
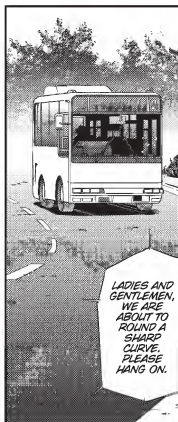
DAD
WOULD
GO OUT
AND
WADE
IN IT.

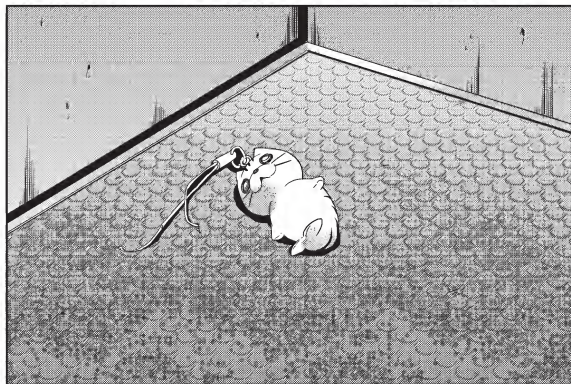
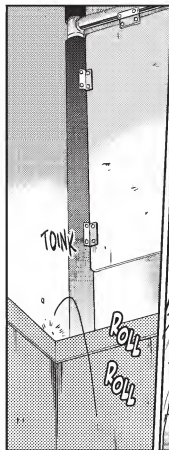


I'VE
TOTALLY
FORGOT-
TEN.

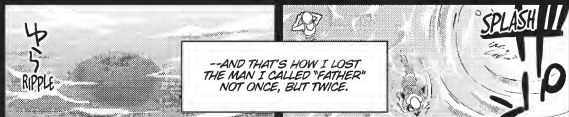
I VAGUELY
REMEMBER
US GOING
TO VISIT
AS A
FAMILY
A FEW
TIMES.











--AND THAT'S HOW I LOST
THE MAN I CALLED "FATHER"
NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE.

FOR KIDS WHO'VE NEVER
LOST ANYONE IN THEIR LIVES,
UNDERSTANDING WHAT I WENT
THROUGH WOULD BE VERY,
VERY HARD TO DO.

BUT MAYBE,
JUST MAYBE,
SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE...

SOME-
WHERE IN
THIS WIDE,
WIDE
WORLD...

THERE'S
SOMEONE WHO COULD
UNDERSTAND AND
SHARE MY PAIN.



I WANT TO FIND
THAT SOMEONE.

MAYBE...

SOME-
WHERE...

THERE'S
SOME-
ONE...

MY SOUL WALKS
A LONG ROAD.

SOME-
WHERE
OUT
THERE...

SO
COLD.

WHO
SHARES
...

WHAT
I...

PLSH



Chapter 5: Blue Rain





THE
ME OF
TODAY...

IS
FRIENDS
WITH
AWAYA
NIKI!

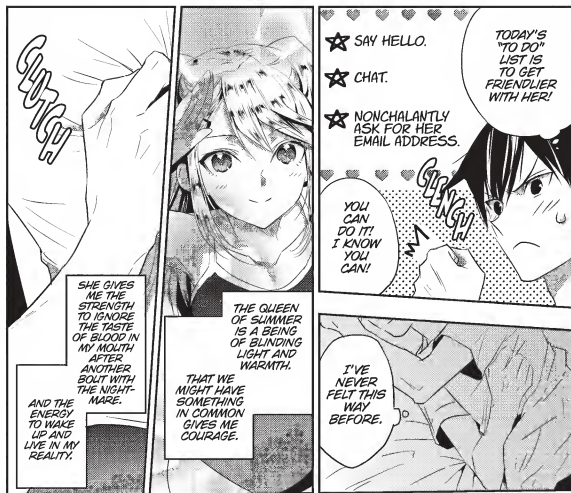
THE ME OF
LAST WEEK
WOULD
PROBABLY
LIE HERE IN
A LAZY
TORPOR, NOT
WANTING
TO FACE
ANOTHER
MONDAY
MORNING.

BUT
TODAY,
IT'S A
NEW
ME.

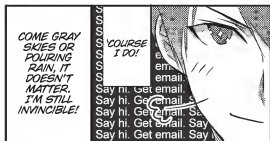
SMACK

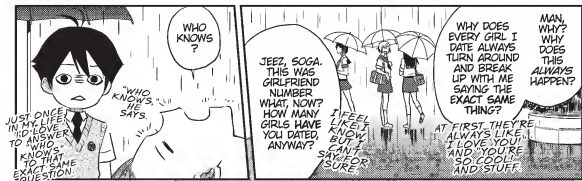


FINALLY!
THE
MORNING
I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!









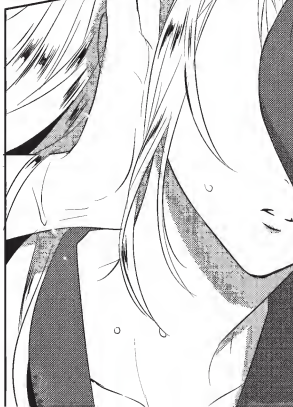


GYAAAAAH!!

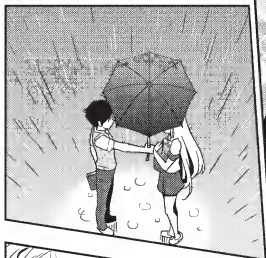
A SUR-
PRISE
ATTACK!

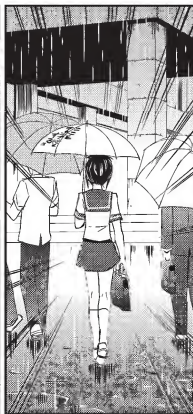


I'M SO
NOT READY!
I DIDN'T
EXPECT TO
RUN INTO
HER FIRST
THING!!



OH!







OH-KAAAY...
WHAT
HAPPENED?
ARE YOU
CRYING?!

SO THIS
IS WHAT
DRENCHED
ZOMBIES
LOOK LIKE

I'M
GONNA DIE!
I SWEAR,
I'M GONNA!
IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO GO ON
LIVING!!

I'M IN PAIN,
ON-CHAN!
IN SO
MUCH PAIN
I CAN'T
TAKE IT!!

WHAT
HAPPENED?!!
WHERE'S
YOUR
UMBRELLA?!

AA
AA
AU
U
GH



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
SOMEDAY,
I'LL COME
BACK AND
LEAN ON
YOU.

I FEEL LIKE
I'VE BEEN
LEANING ON
YOU FOR
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
LONG
NOW.

ON-
CHAN...!!

SUCH
MANLY
WORDS!!



ON-CHAN,
YOU'RE SO
KIND!

IT'S
NOTHING.
"A FRIEND
IN NEED,"
AND ALL...
LEAN
ON ME!

A
MERCIFUL
GODDESS!



I AM
NOT
THAT
HEAVY!

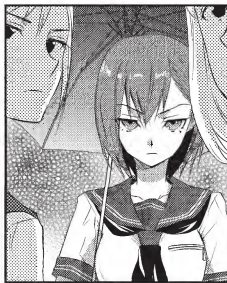
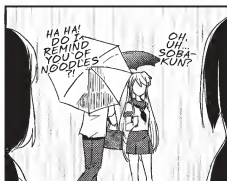
NOT
EVEN
CLOSE!

WHEN THAT
DAY COMES,
ON-CHAN,
DON'T
HESITATE.
I SWEAR I'LL
HOLD UP
YOUR ENTIRE
50 kg
FRAME!



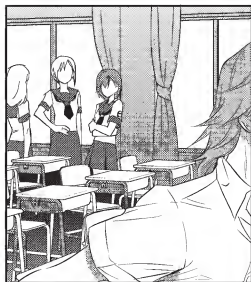
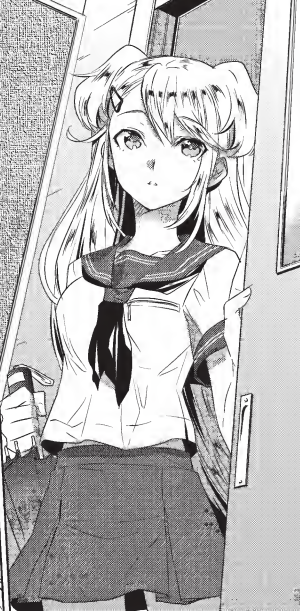
A-ANYWAY!
IF YOU
WOULD DEIGN
TO TAKE THE
HAND OF ONE
SO LOWLY
AS I, PLEASE
GO AHEAD!

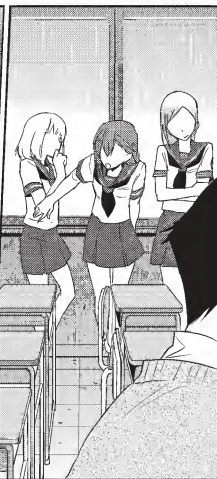
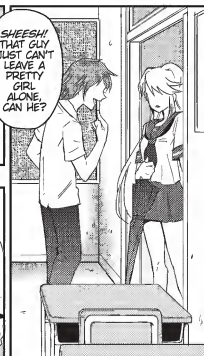
LIVE,
CAPTAIN!
DON'T
GIVE UP
ON LIFE!













YEP. TOTALLY.
WE ALL KNOW
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
THIS MORNING
AND BACK AT
THE POOL.

Y'KNOW,
WE MIGHT
HAVE TO
LIKE, DO
SOME-
THING
ABOUT
THAT.



BEFORE
IT GETS
OUT OF
HAND.



USED?



YOU'RE
GETTING
USED.



USED?

ME?



I'M TOTALLY
CONFUSED.
AND, IS IT
JUST ME,
OR WERE
THOSE GIRLS
LOOKING
SCARY-
PISSSED?

WHAT
WAS
THAT
ABOUT?

TP

TP

TP

BY
HER
...?

THEN I
FIND OUT
SHE'S OUR
ANTHOLO-
GY'S ONLY
READER.

I GOT SO
EXCITED
I EVEN
MUSTERED
ENOUGH
COURAGE TO
ASK HER
TO BE MY
FRIEND.

SHE
PULLED
ME OUT
OF THE
POOL
AND
SAVED
ME.

ONE DAY,
SHE JUST
SUDDENLY
CALLS
ME BY
NAME.



SHE
SMILED
AT ME.

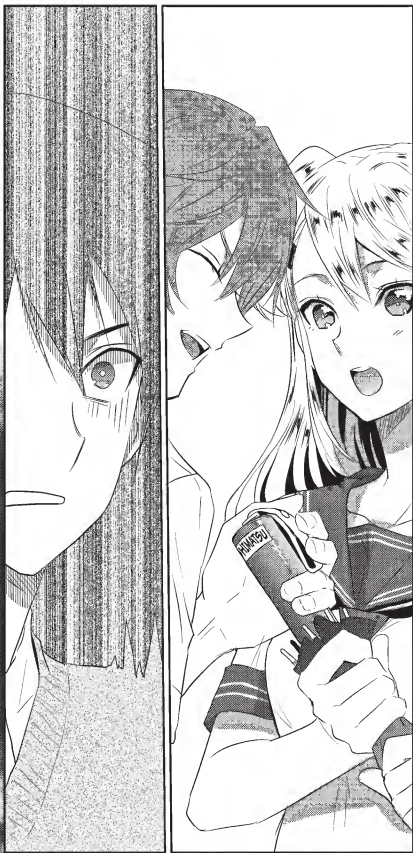
AND
NOW
SHE'S...



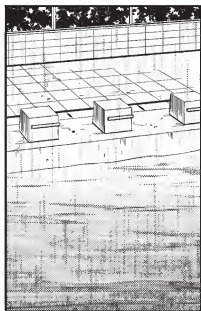
OH
MY
GOD.

DID I
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA?

COULD
I HAVE
BEEN
BLINDLY
WRONG
ABOUT
THIS THE
WHOLE
TIME?









AND
IT'S STILL
RAINING,
SO NO
FEMALE
SWIM CLUB,
EITHER.



THERE'S
NO SOGA
CHICKS
AROUND,
FOR
ONE.

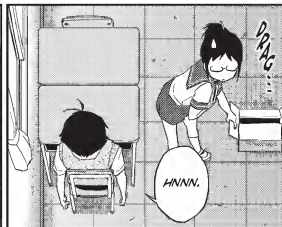


OUR ADVISOR
SAYS WE HAVE
TO FILE ONE
COPY OF EACH
ISSUE AND
CREATE AN
INDEX OF
EVERY TITLE OF
EVERY ARTICLE
WRITTEN.

HERE
IS EVERY
ONE OF
OUR
ANTHOLOG-
IES.

THUMP

バサッ

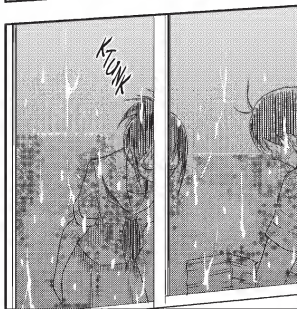


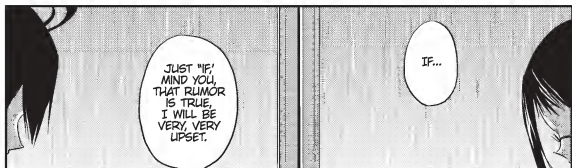
HNNN.



CAPTAIN
...

I'M AFRAID
YOU CAN'T
INDULGE
IN BEING
CAPTAIN
LINDEAD
TODAY.
WE HAVE
WORK
TO DO.







AH!
CAPTAIN,
YOU'LL
RIP THE
PAGE!

SHINE...

I'M STILL
LETTING
THAT
STUPID
RUMOR
GET TO
ME.

I'M TOO
AFRAID
TO FIND
OUT IF
IT'S
TRUE.



I'M
PA-
THETIC.

EVEN
WITH
SUCH A
TRUST-
WORTHY
FRIEND
SUPPORT-
ING ME...



THE
ONLY
REASON
I EVEN
WROTE
IT...

WAS
BECAUSE
I FIGURED
NO ONE
WOULD
READ IT.



From "Star of the Giants"
Father teaches son a
lesson

AH.

I
REMEM-
BER THIS
COLUMN.



Father teaches son a lesson.

A Father-Figure Found in Manga

By Yoshimatsu Hotaka

BECAUSE
I KNEW
THAT...

ALL THOSE
YEARS, I DID
MY BEST TO
BOTTLE UP
MY GRIEF,
SHOVING IT
DOWN INSIDE,
KEEPING IT
FROM
SHOWING.

MORE
THAN A
DECADE
HAS
PASSED
SINCE
HIS
DEATH.

In the end, before anyone knew what was happening, he died. He left behind him a wife lost in emotional turmoil—part so part hatred—and a young, powerless son with a heart covered

And that's how I lost the man I called "father" not once, but

For kids who've never lost anyone in their lives, understanding what I went through would be very, very hard to do.

I WAS
ONLY
TAKING THE
OPPORTU-
NITY TO
WRITE
ABOUT MY
OWN DAD.

I want to find that someone.

I HAD
TO.
I FELT
LIKE I'D
EXPLODE
IF I
DIDN'T.

BUT IN THAT
ARTICLE I
THOUGHT
NOBODY READ,
I FINALLY
PUT THOSE
EMOTIONS
INTO WORDS
AND SPIT THEM
OUT ONTO
THE PAPER.

MAYBE
SHE
HASN'T.

MAYBE
THE
RUMOR
IS TRUE
AND SHE
IS ONLY
USING
ME.

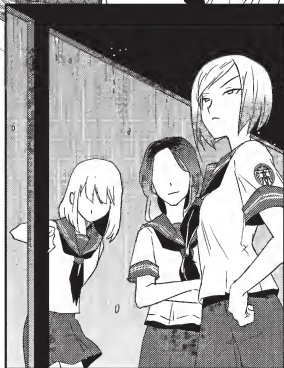
I WONDER
IF AWAYA
NIKI
READ IT.

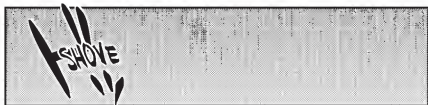
NO,
THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

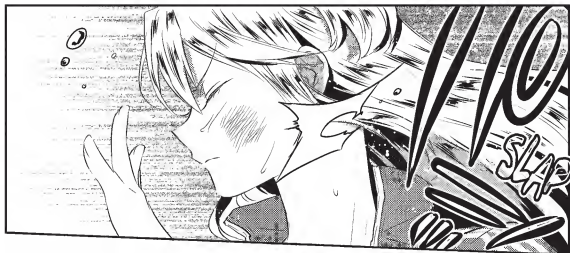
FWAP













WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?!







HE'S NOT
A DRIP!
DON'T COUNT
YOSHIMATSU
HOTAKA
OUT!

THOUGH
I DID
JUST
GIVE A
LICKING
...

TO MY
FINGER.
HEH.

SWEEP





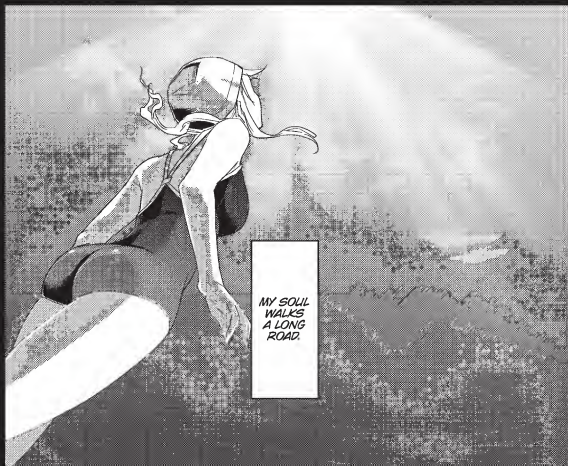
SEARCH-
ING FOR SOME-
ONE.

NO MATTER
WHICH IT IS,
I KNOW
THOSE
EYES ARE
SEARCHING.



IS HE
WATCHING
ME?

OR IS
HE JUST
ABSENTLY
LOOKING
OUT?



MY SOUL
WALKS
A LONG
ROAD.

To be continued...

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

 evergreen
VOLUME 1

story by YUYUKO TAKEMIYA / art by AKIRA CASKABE

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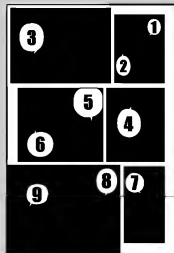
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from **right to left**, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



JUST ADD WATER

Born with a congenital heart disease, and thus unable to join in activities that are too physical, Manga Club captain Yoshimatsu Hotaka can only watch through the club room's window whenever the school swim team practices. Hotaka is enamored with beautiful swimming ace, Awaya Niki. But Hotaka is sickly and shy, and feels that the best he can do is pine for her from afar.



When the gym teacher asks Hotaka to attend a special, after-school swim class to make up for not participating during regular classes, it sets into motion a budding friendship between Hotaka and Niki...and perhaps something more?

Rated: TEEN

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